

# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

E. BERTRAM SMITH,

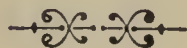
M.B., B.S. ; D.P.H.,

FOR THE

BELCHAMP

Rural District Council,

For the Year 1919.



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1920

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,

BRAINTREE,

20th December, 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of  
the Belchamp Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report upon the health and sanitary circumstances of your district during the year 1919 ; and as only abridged reports have been issued since that for the year 1914, I have also included as much information as possible for the intervening years.

The period under review covers those years of the war when the stress and strain were greatest ; but also includes the commencement of the period of recovery and reconstruction.

The formation of the Ministry of Health is the outstanding step in the public health activities of this latter period ; but it can only be of benefit if it is followed by a reconstruction of public health administration locally.

The success of the public health services depends even more upon local than upon central administration ; and a new local health unit is urgently required, which can deal with and co-ordinate all the various activities of Preventive Medicine, in the place of the many existing independent bodies. The size of this unit is receiving careful consideration, so the future is still uncertain. *Too large an area is as unsatisfactory as one too small* ; and it is for District Councils to see as far as they are able, that the communities for whose health they are at present responsible, do not suffer by any change that may be proposed.

The acceptance of this term "Preventive Medicine," in place of the older and vague one "Public Health," outlines

the development of our work in the future. The outlook becomes far wider therefore, especially as it is more and more recognised that all branches of medicine are preventive as well as curative.

The need for closer co-operation and organisation, and the new duties of the ideal local health authority thus become apparent. They include the ultimate linking up of the present health work with (among others,) the following medical activities; maternity and child welfare, the school medical service, voluntary hospitals, the hospital and other medical services of the poor law, the tuberculosis and other work of the Health Insurance Acts, pathological laboratories, venereal disease, etc., etc.

This is the vision that I would put before you—not all to be brought about at once, but as the ideal to be aimed at and to be worked for—as most efficiently contributing to the welfare of the community.

For the Council's sympathetic consideration and assistance at all times, and especially for their kindness during my recent illness, I beg to tender my sincerest thanks.

To my colleagues I am indebted for constant courteous and willing co-operation, and for much valuable assistance in the preparation of this Report.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. BERTRAM SMITH.

TABLE I. Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1919 and previous Years.  
BELCHAMP RURAL DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.							Natural Increase (excess of Births over Deaths).				
		Un-corrected Number	Nett.		Total Registered in the District. Number.	Transferable.		Under 1 year of Age.			Nett.					
			Number.	Rate.		Rate. England and Wales.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Number	Rate per 1,000 Net Births.	Rate England and Wales.		Number	Rate.		
															Standardised Rate for comparison with E & W	Rate E. & W
1911	4,672	84	85	18.2	24.3	1	11	94	130	72	15.4	11.5	14.6	13		
1912	4,655	84	88	18.9	23.9	0	12	68	95	67	14.4	10.7	13.3	21		
1913	4,638	74	76	16.4	24.1	2	12	92	108	63	13.6	10.1	13.8	13		
1914	4,621	87	88	19.0	23.8	1	13	68	105	64	13.8	10.2	14.0	24		
1915	4,252	71	73	15.8	21.9	0	11	55	110	78	18.1	13.5	15.7	-5		
1916	4,048	68	69	15.7	20.9	0	10	43	91	50	12.3	9.2	14.4	19		
1917	3,687	40	42	10.2	17.8	0	17	71	96	65	17.7	13.2	14.4	23		
1918	3,706	50	55	13.3	17.7	0	15	0	97	73	19.7	14.7	17.6	-18		
1919	3,782	53	53	13.4	18.5	1	18	132	89	81	21.7	16.2	13.7	-28		
	3,940															

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water) } 26,500  
 Total population at all ages ... 4,676 }  
 Total families or separate occupiers 1,227 } At Census, 1911.



# BELCHAMP RURAL DISTRICT

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## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF DISTRICT.

**POPULATION.** At the census of 1901 this was 4,847, and at the 1911 census it was 4,676. It is one of the few districts in Essex, which shows a continuously decreasing population. In 1881, it was no less than 6200. The estimated populations on Table I, page 4, up to the year 1914 are based upon the supposition that the decrease of population during the 10 years 1901-1911 had gone on uninterruptedly ever since. The population for the middle of 1919 would have been 4,539 on this basis. But since 1914 it has been subject to very abnormal modifications, and it is estimated by the Registrar General to have been 3,782 at the middle of 1919. Estimates of the civilian population, based chiefly upon returns from the National Register and the Food Rationing, have been issued by the Registrar General for each year since 1914, and are shewn on Table I. in ordinary type. The explanation of the second estimate (in italics) will be found in the section on Vital Statistics.

**PHYSICAL FEATURES.** The district comprises 26,500 acres and is divided into 17 parishes. It comprises half the water shed of the River Stour, which runs in a south-easterly direction, forming its north eastern boundary for a distance of 24 miles. The width of the district averages about 6 miles.

This river and its tributary streams lie in broad valleys, which intersect the district, and cause a general undulating surface varying in height from 292 feet to 69 feet above Ordnance Datum.

The geological formation is chalk ; which outcrops in a few places, but is chiefly covered on the higher ground with boulder clay, and in the valleys with drift sand and gravel or brick earth ; and more superficially with alluvium.

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS.** The entire district is under cultivation, with a comparatively large proportion of arable land and a small proportion of grass land. The proportion of the latter is probably not increasing. There is little other employment than in agriculture.

There is very little industrial employment of women, and employment has been good, as there were still a good many men not demobilised at the end of 1919.

Agricultural wages had risen from 15/- per week in 1914 to 38/6 at the end of 1919, and have risen again since to 46/6. An Agricultural Wages Board has been established which now

fixes the minimum wage for farm workers. Other wages have increased in about the same proportion. The rise in wages has only kept pace with the increased cost of living.

The rateable value of the district was £29,954 on Sept. 30th, 1919, and there were no outstanding loans for sanitary purposes.

**VITAL STATISTICS.** The effect of the war upon the estimation of birth and death rates for comparison with pre-war years is very considerable, and for the period of the war it has been necessary for the Registrar General to supply us each year with two estimates of the population. One of these includes the resident civil population, and is fairly exact, while the other includes also a rough estimate of the absentees from the district in H.M. Forces. These estimates are shewn on Table I for each year, and the second one referred to above is shewn in italics.

The reason for and the defects of these two estimates are as follows :—

It has been found impossible to distribute to their home area the deaths in H.M. Forces, whether occurring abroad on the field of battle, or at home, so that we can only record the *civilian deaths* and estimate the death-rate in the *civilian* population. This explains the necessity of the estimate of civilians only.

It must be remembered that the elements abstracted from this population have chiefly been the healthiest lives, so that there is left an undue proportion of the young and old, among whom normally more deaths would occur.

Under normal conditions this can be corrected for by the census returns, less accurately as the years pass by and the census returns become out-of-date ; but for these abnormal conditions it is impossible to make adequate correction, and so an equivalent mortality will cause a slightly higher death-rate now than in the last years before the war, on account of the less favourable age and sex constitution of the civil population left at home. For the country as a whole this amounts to 0·7 per 1,000.

With regard to the births on the other hand the non-civilian elements of the population must not be excluded as they contribute thereto. A different population including them must therefore be estimated for calculation of birth and marriage rates. Unfortunately it is not possible to estimate the number of enlistments from each district, and the whole non-civilian population of something like five millions has had to be spread evenly over all the districts of the whole country in a uniform proportion to their estimated civilian populations.

The additional proportion per cent. added to the civil population was	1916	8.8
	1917	11.4
	1918	12.0
	1919	4.1

This represents roughly the percentage of the population that was under arms.

Further this birth-rate assumes that this non-civilian population had as much opportunity for affecting the birth-rate as it would have had under civilian conditions, and therefore the birth-rates calculated in this manner will be slightly lower than those before the war without indicating any loss of fertility.

**BIRTHS.** The most serious feature of the vital statistics of the war years has been the diminution in the number of births. These were falling off all too rapidly before the war, but a reference to Table I. shows that while in 1911 the nett births belonging to the district were 85, they are now only 53. This gives a birth-rate, calculated in the manner described above, of only 13.4.

The number of births actually registered in the district is 53 ; so no children whose parents belong to this district have been born elsewhere.

The seriousness of this situation is further shown in the figures of the "natural increase" of the district, i.e. the excess of births over deaths, which are given in the last column of Table I.

These figures apply to the civilian deaths only, and show but a very small margin to compensate for the district's war losses. In 1915, 1917, 1918, and 1919 there was actually an excess of *civilian* deaths over births.

The number of illegitimate births in 1919 was 3, which is 6% of the total births.

**DEATHS.** During the year there have been 64 deaths registered, to which total must be added the deaths elsewhere of 18 residents, and from this must be deducted the non-resident who died in the district. This gives a nett total of 81 and a civilian death-rate of 21.7.

Even before the war it was necessary to correct this to allow for the undue proportion of the very old (among whom the death-rate is naturally high) before comparing it with the rate for England and Wales, and the standardised death-rate for comparative purposes is therefore 16.2.

This standardised death-rate and the death-rate for England and Wales for comparison are shown in italics in columns 15 and 16 of Table I.



From this table it will also be seen that the death-rates in 1918 and 1919 were by far the highest for many years.

TABLE II.  
Causes of Death, all ages, 1916-1919.

BELCHAMP RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	1916.		1917.		1918.		1919.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Small-Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
6. Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	5
7. Influenza	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
8. Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	5	2	1	1
9. Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	2	6	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculous meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
12. Cancer, malignant disease	1	4	2	3	3	7	3	4
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...
14. Meningitis	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15. Organic Heart Disease	1	4	5	2	7	5	1	1
16. Bronchitis	...	3	2	3	5	3	5	4
17. Pneumonia (all forms)	1	3	...	2	...	1	1	...
18. Other Respiratory diseases	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
19. Diarrhœa, &c., (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21. Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21a. Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. Nephritis and Bright's disease	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
23. Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
24. Parturition (apart from Puerperal Fever)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Congenital Debility, and Malformation, including premature birth	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	2
26. Violence (apart from suicide)	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...
27. Suicide	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
28. Other defined Diseases	12	11	15	11	18	9	13	17
29. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Totals	22	28	30	33	41	33	42	39

In 1919, no less than 45 out of the 81 deaths took place at the age of 65 years or upwards.

In Table II. the various causes of death for the four years 1916-1919 are classified. These figures are now supplied by the Registrar General, and occasionally his figures will be



found to vary slightly from those used everywhere else in the Report, which have been further corrected by the light of local investigation.

It is satisfactory to note the absence of deaths from enteric fever, smallpox, measles and scarlet fever. Deaths from various other infectious diseases (e.g. influenza, tuberculosis, &c.,) will be referred to in that section (p. 19.)

CANCER. This disease counts for 5, 5, 10 and 7 deaths respectively, a yearly average of nearly 7. This does not compare very favourably with the 1911-15 average of 6.4 deaths; but cancer occurs chiefly among persons over 45 years of age, the number of whom in the population has not been materially diminished during the war years by recruiting.

INFANTILE DEATH RATE. The number of infants dying before reaching the age of 1 year is shewn on Table I., and is given in detail as to legitimacy below.

Nett Deaths { Legitimate - - -	7
in the year { Illegitimate - - -	0
Nett Births in { Legitimate infants	50
the year of { Illegitimate infants	3

For the year 1919 it is 7, which gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 132 per 1,000 births as against 89 for England and Wales.

The causes of death of the children under 1 year of age for the year 1919 are shown on Table III.

TABLE III.  
INFANT MORTALITY.  
BELCHAMP RURAL DISTRICT.

1919. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death.				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
{ Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Premature Birth	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
	Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	4	2	...	1	...	7

This Table reveals the facts that out of a total of 7 deaths  
 2 (28%) took place during the first week  
 4 (57%)       "       "       "       "       month  
 and no less than 6 (85%)       "       "       "       "       quarter.

Nearly all these deaths in the earlier weeks are due to congenital debility and malformation (including premature birth and the wasting conditions, atrophy and marasmus), which account for 3 deaths out of the 7. The causes of these conditions are largely pre-natal, and it therefore follows that to lower the Infant Death-Rate materially it is as necessary to concentrate infant welfare efforts as much upon the pre-natal period as during the first year of independent life.

**POOR LAW RELIEF.** The district comprise the Essex portion of the Sudbury Union, of which it forms only about one fifth on a population basis. No separate statistics are therefore available.

**HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.** There are small hospitals at Sudbury and Halstead, which do excellent work.

Apart from this, there are the large general hospitals at Colchester, (8 miles from the south-eastern end.) Cambridge (24 miles from the north-western end), and London (50 miles), which take a few cases from the district.

The position of voluntary hospitals is becoming acute, and it is being more and more realised what an important share they take in the health of the country.

In the past Sanitary Authorities have practically limited themselves to providing hospital accommodation for infectious cases; but in the broader conception of the duties of the State in the regions of Preventive Medicine (the first result of which is the formation of a Ministry of Health embracing also the curative medicine of the Insurance Act) the provision of adequate hospital accommodation will have a place. As a matter of fact, ever since 1875 Local Authorities have been empowered to contribute to voluntary hospitals for services rendered.

Satisfactory Infant Welfare Schemes must include hospital treatment for mothers or children needing it; and such accommodation can best be provided by arrangements with voluntary hospitals.

Voluntary hospitals also render valuable service to insured persons, and it is only fair that they should receive their due share of the contributions made under the Insurance Acts.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.**

**WATER SUPPLY.** This is almost entirely from shallow wells and springs, there being no public piped supplies in the

district. On the whole it is fairly adequate, except at Bures Hamlet, where the wells are liable to pollution. There are also some cases where the only supply to neighbouring cottages is from a public house or shop. The cottagers are under an obligation to spend money at these places, and this also cannot be considered to be a very satisfactory arrangement.

There are, too, several isolated groups of cottages belonging to different owners where the supply is not satisfactory, *e.g.*, Little Henny and The Common at Belchamp Walter.

The only satisfactory solution is for the Council to undertake the provision of the new well and get the owners of the houses benefitted to contribute—not only for the above reason, but because the Council's powers to make the owners provide the supply themselves are not always efficient.

One private well at Lamarsh has been taken over by the Council and improved.

Whenever the opportunity occurs they should increase their control of the water supply in these ways, as should anything go wrong it is usually a matter of urgency to put it right: and the difficulty of getting anything done promptly by private owners especially where several may be concerned, is sometimes very great.

The wells now kept in order by the Council number 18 and are situated in the following parishes:—

Otten Belchamp	...	3	Lamarsh	...	1
Belchamp St. Paul's	...	3	Middleton	...	1
Walter Belchamp	...	1	Twinstead	...	1
Borley	...	2	Pentlow	...	2
Foxearth	...	1	Wickham St. Paul's	...	1
Gestingthorpe	...	2			

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Two have been improved during 1919.

A water certificate has been granted for the one new house built, the supply being from an existing private well.

No new well has been sunk.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.** The River Stour and its tributary brooks are the only ones of importance, and undoubtedly some pollution occurs in its course through the district, especially at Bures Hamlet.

The effluent from the Foxearth Brewery is subjected to chemical precipitation, and is now much less objectionable.

**SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.** The parishes which have any sewers are Bures Hamlet, Foxearth, Gestingthorpe and Middleton.

The majority of these are old road drains or piped-in ditches,



but most of them convey only sink slops and have no water closets connected. Care is taken to avoid the connection of water closets with these sewers as far as possible.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.** The approximate numbers are as follows :—

Cesspit Privies	...	...	464
Pail Closets	...	...	482
Water Closets, flushing	..	..	64
Water Closets, hand flushed	...	...	8
			<hr/> 1018

The number of inhabited houses is about 1,200, so that the majority have separate closets. Where this is not so, I think the time has come for the Council to require their provision.

The number of privies abolished in recent years has been approximately as follows :—

	Total	Replaced by W.Cs.	Pail Closets.
1912	17	0	17
1913	15	0	15
1914	21	0	21
1915 } 1916 } 1917 } 1918 }	21	1	20
1919	24	0	24
<hr/>			<hr/>
98			97

Up to 1915, chiefly as a result of the Housing Inspection, the rate of conversion was improving, but was still too slow. Now that the war is over I recommend that the rate should be very materially increased, as there is no doubt that a cesspit privy, however wellconstructed, is a very undesirable thing. Even if it does not leak and pollute the surrounding soil and adjacent well, it forms a breeding place for various kinds of flies, and is opposed to the scientific disposal of excreta by nitrifying micro-organisms which are to be found in top few inches of recently dug soil.

Bye-laws might with advantage be adopted insisting upon the weekly removal of the pails, and printed cards supplied for fixing in the closets giving directions for the proper way of disposing of the excreta.

**SCAVENGING.** None is undertaken by the Council and I do not think it urgent at the present time in any parish except in Bures Hamlet. Here the cottages have such tiny gardens that a weekly collection of both night soil and house refuse is urgently required.



**SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.**—Considerable progress has been made with the sanitary supervision of the district, as will be seen from Table IV. To form this table, I have considerably amended Dr. Thresh's old tabular statement of work done through the Sanitary Inspector, as it was getting out of date. The majority of inspections are now undertaken, and the resulting work is carried out under the Housing Acts rather than under the old 'nuisance' sections, of the P.H. Act 1875. The first ten headings of the table therefore include these. The fourth and fifth headings are now worded so that their total should balance that of the next two items. In this way any serious error is at once apparent.

For the sake of uniformity it is necessary to have some common definition of what is to be counted as one nuisance. I find the simplest way—though perhaps not literally the most accurate, is to count the number of defective premises rather than the actual number of defects; and this is already the official basis of the Housing Statement, Table IX. (page 31). In some districts I have known the various half dozen or so different defects which may exist in one cottage to be each counted separately as a nuisance, so that the Annual Returns may give the impression of a large amount of work being done when there is in reality very little. I think that a glance at Table IV. will show a very creditable amount of work done under the circumstances.

**TABLE IV. Sanitary Inspector's Returns**

	1919	
Complaints received -	26	
Total Inspections and reinspections	237	
Nuisances detected -	72	
Informal Notices served -	65	} 70
Notices outstanding, Jan. 1st -	5	
Notices outstanding, Dec. 31st -	12	} 70
Notices complied with -	58	
Statutory Notices served -	0	} No. of Premises
Legal Proceedings -	0	
Convictions -	0	
Work carried out by Council (Sec. 36, P.H.A. 1875, &c.)	0	
Overcrowding discovered -	2	
„ outstanding, Jan. 1st -	0	
„ abated -	2	
„ outstanding, Dec. 31 -	0	
Filthy houses cleansed, (Sec. 46 P.H. Act 1875) -	2	
Privies converted to W.C's. -	0	
„ „ Pail Closets -	24	
Additional Closets to } W.C's existing property } Pail Closets	0 9	
Approx. No. Privies -	464	
„ „ Pail Closets -	452	
„ „ Flushing Water Closets	64	
„ „ Handflushed „	8	
Seizures of Unsound Food -	0	

CONTROLLED PREMISES. Further details of the inspections of these during 1919, are as follows:--

TABLE V.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	No. in District.	No. In- spected.	Total No. of Inspections made.	Notices served.	Notices Complied with.	Legal Proceedings (if any).
Common Lodging Houses	0	0	0	-	-	}
Bakehouses	15	15	60	4	4	
Cowsheds	11	11	44	3	3	
Other Dairies & Milkshops	4	4	16	0	0	
Slaughter Houses	3	3	12	0	0	
Knackers Yards	1	1	2	0	0	
Offensive Trades	0	0	0	-	-	

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES ETC. There are 15 registered cowkeepers in the district, 4 of whom have no special cowsheds. Of the 11 others, many are old and unsatisfactory. Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops Orders are not in force.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES. There are now 3 slaughterhouses in the as against 5 in 1914. All have been inspected several times during the year.

KNACKERS YARDS. There is one in the district, at Walter Belchamp. It is periodically inspected, and there has been no complaint of any nuisance.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES. } There are none in the  
UNDERGROUND SLEEPING ROOMS. } District.

OFFENSIVE TRADES. The Council has not Urban powers and so has no control over these. No action is at present required.

BAKEHOUSES. The number of bakehouses in the district is now 15. In 1914 it was 17. None are underground. All are kept under supervision.

WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES, ETC. Apart from the inspection of bakehouses very little is required.

HOMEWORK. Very little is done.

TENTS, VANS, ETC. Nothing unsatisfactory has been discovered.

SCHOOLS. There are eleven Public Elementary Schools, with about 460 children in attendance. Visits are made when making inquiries re infectious disease, and at the same time an inspection is made of the sanitary arrangements which are usually found to be satisfactory, with a few exceptions.

The County Education Committee are responsible for the medical inspection of the children, but during the war their staff has been much depleted. The action with regard to infectious disease is dealt with under that heading.

FOOD. MILK SUPPLY. All the milk consumed is produced in the district, chiefly in small and unsatisfactory premises. Some

is sent to Sudbury and some is sent daily to London. In many places a higher standard of cleanliness is desirable. No action has been taken with regard to dirty milk, but no doubt the regulations that will be issued under the Milk and Dairies Act, 1914, (which was suspended during the war) will give Sanitary Authorities more duties in dealing with this, and also with unsatisfactory premises. The sooner some form of grading is established the better, so that those who take trouble to produce clean milk under hygienic conditions may benefit financially.

MILK (MOTHERS & CHILDREN,) ORDER, 1918. See Maternity and Child Welfare Section (page 20).

OTHER FOODS. The Inspector of Nuisances does not hold the Meat Inspector's Certificate, but he gives as much time as possible to food inspection.

As the 3 slaughterhouses are scattered widely over the district and there are no regular times for slaughtering, it is impossible to inspect the home killed meat systematically.

During 1919 no foods have been found to be unfit for human food.

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE. During the year 24 notifications were received. These are shewn on Table VI. The Government Department responsible has made the following diseases notifiable :

Acute Primary Pneumonia	}	from 1st March, 1919,
Acute Influenzal „		
Malaria		
Dysentery		
Trench Fever		
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	}	from 1st January, 1919,
Acute Polio-encephalitis		

and the notification of Measles and German Measles is rescinded from Dec. 31st, 1919.

The general measures taken with regard to infectious disease are outlined in Dr. Holden's Annual Reports for 1914. The number of houses disinfected has been 4, and one lot of bedding has been removed to the disinfector at the Sudbury workhouse.

SCARLET FEVER. The number of cases notified each year since 1901 is as follows.

1901	1	1911	8
2	4	12	5
3	1	13	2
4	11	14	0
5	57	15	1
6	17	16	0
7	5	17	4
8	13	18	4
9	13	19	0
10	0		

From this table it is apparent that the last few years have been very free from this complaint, and the table is very satisfactory.

The type of the disease is nowadays very mild, so much so that probably a good many unrecognised cases occur, because the persons attacked are never ill enough to seek medical advice. The number of other persons infected by these mild unrecognised cases is comparatively very few, which goes to show that the present type of the disease, under (and possibly because of) the more hygienic conditions now prevailing, is much less infectious than formerly.

DIPHTHERIA. The number of cases notified since 1901 is shown in the following table.

1901	20	1911	2
2	4	12	0
3	0	13	1
4	1	14	3
5	0	15	0
6	0	16	0
7	0	17	10
8	3	18	2
9	2	19	2
10	0		

One of the 2 cases died from secondary broncho pneumonia.

All the practitioners in the district are advised that the Council provides anti-toxin and for the examination of swabs. These facilities are taken advantage of.

ENTERIC FEVER. Three cases occurred in 1916. The number of cases notified since 1901 is as follows:—

1901	0
2	1
3	0
4	1
5	1

It is very satisfactory to note that no cases have occurred since 1905.

Under the Public Health (Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, &c.) Regulations, 1919, a commencement of administrative action is at last instituted for dealing with the carrier problem. Power is given to the M.O.H. to prevent a carrier of this disease from continuing at work connected with the preparation or handling of food or drink for human consumption.

MALARIA. Four cases have been notified since March 1st. These have all been ex-soldiers who had contracted the disease abroad.



DYSENTERY. No cases have been notified. Powers for dealing with carriers of this disease are now conferred upon the M.O.H., similar to those mentioned above under "Enteric Fever."

TRENCH FEVER. No cases have been notified.

PNEUMONIA, PRIMARY AND INFLUENZAL. Ten cases were notified after March 1st, when notification came into force, 3 of them during that month. The death returns show three deaths among these notified cases, four deaths from influenzal pneumonia before March 1st, and one in May of a case that had not been notified.

It must be remembered that deaths from influenzal pneumonia are tabulated under 'influenza': and this explains the fact that in Table II. most of the eight deaths are shown under this heading, and only one of them under 'pneumonia.'

SMALLPOX. No cases have occurred for some years. Several contacts have recently come into the district and these have been kept under observation. No vaccinations have been performed by the M.O.H. under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917. The vaccinal state of the community is becoming progressively worse. The following figures give the proportion of the unvaccinated children among the certificates received.

		1909.	1919.
		—	—
Successfully vaccinated	...	75	34
Exemptions	... ..	6	12

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA. Early in 1918, there arose all over the country a number of cases of brain fever similar to each other, but differing definitely from all the known forms of this group of diseases.

At this time food-rationing was at its severest and the condition immediately leapt into fame as at first sight its symptoms were not unlike "botulism," — a food poisoning condition which is almost unknown in this country but has been fairly common in Germany for some years.

But little investigation was required to negative this suggestion, and it became evident that this was a new condition, only recognised at last because it had become more prevalent during that spring.

As it was obvious that further knowledge was required, the disease was grouped with infectious diseases and made notifiable.

No case was notified.

PUERPERAL FEVER.	}	See Maternity and Child Welfare Section, (page 20).
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.		

**TABLE VI. Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1919.**  
**BELCHAMP RURAL DISTRICT.**

	No. of cases notified.								Total Cases notified in each Parish.									
	At all ages.	At Ages—years.							Alpharstone	Belchamp Otten	Belchamp St. Paul's	Belchamp Walter	Bulmer	Bures Hamlet	St. Henry	Lamarsh	Middleton	Twinstead
		Under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 & up										
Diphtheria	2	1	1					1	1				1					1
Erysipelas	1							1										1
Pneumonia	10	1	1	3	4			1		2	1		1	2	2		1	1
Malaria	4			1	3					1			1			2		
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	5			1	2			2		1			1	2				1
Tuberculosis (other forms)	1							1										
Puerperal Fever	1										1							
Total	24	2	2	5	10	4	1	1	1	5	1	4	4	4	2	2	1	3

**MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES.** These diseases have only been notifiable since January 1st, 1916. During 1919, no cases were notified. They ceased to be notifiable after Dec. 31st, 1919, as the experience obtained satisfies the Ministry of Health that the results do not warrant the expenditure. Measles in children under 5 years is a very fatal disease taking the country as a whole, but Table II. shows no deaths, even among these younger children. As far as this district is concerned, the Ministry's opinion of the value of notification is probably justified; as with the development of Child Welfare Work, not only will sufficient information be available from other sources, but which is much more important, the machinery for any necessary action will be at hand.

**TUBERCULOSIS.** From Dr. Holden's registers it appears that the number of cases notified is as follows :

	Lungs.	Other.	Total.
1916	3	2	5
1917	8	3	11
1918	9	0	9
1919	5	1	6

Of the 25 cases notified between 1916 and 1918 there appeared to be 14 still on the books on January 1st, 1919, and efforts were made to trace these. Six have been notified during the year, and there were four deaths; leaving 16 cases on the books at the end of the year, of which all but three were pulmonary cases.

The increase of tuberculosis due to the physical strain of the war and the delay in the provision of the County Sanatorium have interfered with the County Council's scheme of treatment, and the results are not altogether encouraging.

The deaths from all forms of tuberculosis are 3, 9, 8 and 4 respectively for the four years, and from phthisis 3, 8, 7, and 2. The yearly average of deaths from phthisis is

1911-15	3.8
1916-19	5.0

which shows an unwelcome increase during the war years.

**NON-NOTIFIABLE. INFLUENZA.** The deaths from this disease for the four years as shewn in Table II. are 1, 1, 3 and 11.

Apparently in this district the epidemic was more severe in 1919 than in 1918. The eleven deaths occurred in the first quarter, but only 7 of them took place in the district. Of the pneumonia cases notified during March at least three were influenzal.

**OTHER NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.** Judging by reports from the Head Teachers of the Elementary Schools there have not been very many cases of the minor infectious ailments. From Table II. it will be seen that whooping cough accounted for two deaths during the year, compared with 3 in 1918.

The following Schools have been closed during the years—

Henny	February	} Influenzal colds.
Bulmer	March	
Lamarsh		

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.** The Council have had this subject under their consideration and in view of the failure of the County Council Conference in October, I laid proposals before them for carrying out some work themselves. These have since occupied a great deal of time and thought but have been disapproved by the Ministry of Health.

One notification of Puerperal Fever has been received. The patient had been attended by a medical man. She soon recovered. The death shown in Table II. as taking place from this cause during the year, was one occurring elsewhere, which had to be transferred to this district for statistical purposes.

The deaths of young children have been discussed (see Table III. page 9). Table VI. shows no cases of notifiable infectious disease in children under 1 year, and only two among those under 5 years. Fortunately it includes no cases of

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.** This is the disease of the eyes of newborn children, which frequently ends in blindness, unless immediately placed under vigorous treatment. The Order of 1914, by which this disease was made compulsorily notifiable, does not specifically empower the Council to make any provision for treatment: but the Ministry of Health will now sanction expenditure for this purpose.

In the severe cases in which no adequate treatment can be obtained locally, immediate action is necessary, as the delay of only a few hours may occasion irreparable injury to the eyesight. I ought therefore to be empowered to make immediate arrangements for the admission of mother and child into a suitable institution when necessary. Although the transport of a newly-confined woman may be rather costly, it is surely worth it to save a child's eyesight.

**MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.** In connection with the arrangements originally made by the Ministry of Food, and since continued by the manufacturers, dried milk (in the form of Glaxo) has been purchased since February, 1918 at a special price, for re-sale or free distribution, in cases where the ordinary retail price could not be afforded. The amounts re-sold in each District have not been kept separate, but for the whole area of the North Essex United Districts, 1,392 lbs. had been purchased up to the end of 1919, and 1,298 lbs. re-sold at cost price.

The remaining 94 lbs. had been distributed free or at less than cost price by the various Councils.



In this district no cases requiring the supply of food at less than cost price have yet been reported to the Council, as they only came into the combination in October. I am not aware that any action had been taken previously.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

**STAFF.** On the retirement of Dr. J. S. Holden in June, after many years of service, the Council decided to apply for inclusion in the North Essex United Districts. Dr. Rix was appointed acting Medical Officer of Health in the meantime, and on the completion of the negotiations I took over duty on Oct. 1st, although the actual order of the Ministry of Health did not come into force until December.

The work of Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector, Housing Inspector and Highway Surveyor devolves upon Mr. S. Allpress, who carries out his duties in a very painstaking manner.

**ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.** None is provided for ordinary infectious diseases, but the matter is receiving attention.

The new joint Smallpox Hospital at Sible Hedingham, has been let to the County Council for the treatment of tuberculosis cases. In case of an epidemic it is to be surrendered at seven days' notice; and arrangements have been made for sporadic cases to be isolated at the Colchester Borough Smallpox Hospital. The Clerk of the Halstead Rural District Council is in charge of the actual arrangements for removal of patients to Colchester from all the Districts concerned.

**BYELAWS, ADOPTIVE ACTS, ETC.** The only Adoptive Act in force is the Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890, which was adopted in 1903.

The Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, (in so far as it applies to Rural Districts) is apparently not in force, and I recommend its adoption.

The Council has no Urban Powers. Some very old Byelaws were adopted in 1877, and are now quite out of date.

No other Byelaws are in force.

Byelaws regulating New Buildings are badly required, and the present "Model Code" for Rural Districts is not at all unnecessarily restrictive. The Council need have no hesitation in adopting it.

**CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.** The Council provides for the examination of throat swabs, blood, sputum, etc., and these facilities are taken advantage of.

## HOUSING IN THE DISTRICT.

1. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS, (including measures contemplated to meet the shortage.)

The statistical and other information required is to be found in the form of Housing Survey, and as this was only submitted to the Ministry of Health on October 21st 1919, it practically represents the position up to the end of the year. The information therein is that supplied by Mr. Allpress, as I had only just taken office; and further I was unable just then to have the benefit of Dr. Holden's knowledge.

The number of working-class houses shown in the survey is obtained by taking the returns of the 1911 census of the number of houses with seven rooms or less (1088). To these figures have been added the number built (19), and from them have been subtracted the number known to have gone permanently out of occupation (25) since that date. No deduction has been made for a proportion of the seven roomed houses, which are chiefly farm houses; and the resulting total of 1082 I now consider to be a little too high. The total houses of under £8 rateable value, is shown on Table VIII. (page 30) as 1136.

The "Form of Survey" is as follows:—

### FORM OF SURVEY OF HOUSING NEEDS.

#### Sec. 1.—PREVAILING CONDITIONS AFFECTING SHORTAGE OF HOUSES. INDUSTRIES.—

1. Particulars as to the staple industries of the district (or of any parish or part of the district).  
Apart from agriculture, the only industry is brick and tile making, which is carried on on a small scale.
2. Particulars of any anticipated industrial development.  
With the exception of brick and tile making, there is not likely to be any industrial development.  
Extension of Silk Factory in the near future is possible.
3. Particulars of any considerable reduction which may be anticipated in the number of persons employed in any industry in the district ... .. None.  
There is not likely to be any appreciable variation in the number of persons employed in the industries of the district.

#### POPULATION.—

4. Pre-war population, 1914 ... .. 4,298
5. Average annual increase of population for the five years before the war ... .. —20
6. Estimated present population ... .. 4,094
7. Anticipated increase or decrease of working-class population due to industrial changes ... .. (See 3 above)

#### EXISTING HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.—

8. Number of dwelling-houses in the district ... .. 1219
9. Number of working-class houses of the types given in the reply to question 15 ... .. 1082  
... (for details see question 15).

10. Average number of working-class houses built annually during the five years before the war	4
11. Number of working-class houses built between Jan. 1st, 1915, and December 31st 1918.	0
12. Number of empty buildings which might be (a) made suitable, by repairs or alterations, for housing the working-classes; or (b) converted into flats for the working-classes	33*

## OVERCROWDING.—

13. Tenements with more than two occupants per room :—	
Number of Tenements	8
Total number of Occupiers	70
14. Number of houses intended for one family only, which are now occupied (without having been specially adapted) by two or more families	14

## RENTS.—

Particulars of prevailing rents of the various types of working-class houses in the district :—			
<i>Type of House.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Weekly Rent, including rates</i>	
(a) House with living room, scullery, two bedrooms	108	2 0	
(b) Living room, scullery and three bedrooms	113	2/0	
(c) Parlour, living room, scullery & two bedrooms	120	2 6	
(d) Parlour, living room, scullery & three bedrooms	98	2 6	
(e) Parlour, living room, scullery & four bedrooms	36	4 0	
(f) Tenements in block buildings	0		
(g) Other working-class dwellings—(specifying)			
1 room	1	} 1 0 to 1 6	
2 rooms	53		
3 rooms	253		
Total	1082		

## Sec. II.—ESTIMATE OF HOUSING NEEDS.

1. Working-class houses required during the next three years to—		<i>No. of Houses.</i>
(a) Meet the unsatisfied demand for houses (taking account of growth of population, overcrowding, etc.)		40§
(b) Re-house persons to be displaced by the clearance of unhealthy areas		0
(c) Replace other dwellings which are unfit for human habitation and cannot be made fit. Empty, 62, Occupied, 27†		89
(d) Replace obstructive or other buildings (now inhabited and not included under heading (c) which should be demolished		31†
(e) Replace other houses which, although they cannot at present be regarded as unfit for human habitation, fall definitely below a reasonable standard	} <i>see Sec. IV.</i>	5 (b)
(f) Meet anticipated deficiencies, e.g., arising from new industrial development		
TOTAL		160
2. DEDUCT.—		
(a) Working-class houses which it is anticipated will be set free during the next three years as the result of any probable decrease in the population		74
(b) Working-class houses likely to be built during the next three years by persons other than the Local Authority		3
Net Estimate of Number of Houses required		83

\* Shewn for each parish in column C. of Table VII.

† The whole 58 are shewn for each parish in column A of Table VII.

§ Shewn for each parish in column B of Table VII.



Sec. III.—UNHEALTHY AREAS. ... .. None.

Sec. IV.—INSANITARY HOUSES (OTHER THAN HOUSES IN UNHEALTHY AREAS OF WHICH PARTICULARS ARE GIVEN IN SEC. III.)

PREVAILING CONDITIONS.—

- |     |  |  |
|-----|--|--|
| 1.  | How many inhabited houses are there in the district which are not and cannot be made fit for human habitation? | 27*  |
| 2.  | Number of persons inhabiting these houses ... ..   | 69   |
| 3.  | How many houses are already subject to —   |  |
| (a) | Closing orders? (of these six are empty) ... ..  | 7  |
| (b) | Demolition orders? ... ..  | 0  |
| 4.  | How many houses are seriously defective but can be made habitable? ... ..                                      | <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;">           { Theoretically<br/>226, but in<br/>practice only<br/>195† of these<br/>can be made<br/>habitable. —<br/>(See(5b) below.         </div> </div> |

PROPOSED ACTION.—

5. What immediate action is contemplated by the local authority with regard to
- (a) Houses which are not and cannot be made fit for human habitation.  
They will be replaced as soon as possible and then dealt with by Closing Orders, and Demolition Orders. In the meantime owners are being asked to carry out only such repairs as are urgently necessary until such time as they can be replaced
- (b) Houses which are seriously defective but can be made habitable.  
The 31\* shown in Section II., I. (d) and (e) are houses the vast majority of which are unfit for habitation; even if they were made fit, at very heavy cost, they would still fall far below a reasonable standard, and still have to be included in Section II., I. (e). It is therefore proposed to replace them.  
The 195† repairable will be dealt with under Section 28 of The Housing Act, 1919.
6. Within what time is it contemplated that conditions will be such as to warrant the demolition of the houses which are not and cannot be made fit for human habitation?  
Three years!

Sec. VI.—SCHEME OF THE BELCHAMP RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES UNDER SECTION I. OF THE HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &c. ACT, 1919.

The Scheme should include any proposals which have already been submitted for approval as assisted Schemes.

- |    |   |            |
|----|---|------------|
| 1. | Approximate number of new houses to be provided:—               |            |
|    | Parlour, living room, scullery and three bedrooms...            | 50         |
|    | Total number of houses and separate tenements                   | <u>50§</u> |
| 2. | Approximate number of existing empty houses to be acquired and— |            |

\* The whole 58 are shewn for each parish in Column A., of Table VII.

† Shewn for each parish in Column E., of Table VII.

§ Shewn for each parish in Column D., of Table VII.



(i) Made suitable for housing the working-classes	...	33
	(see below par. 9.)	
(ii) Converted into flats for the working-classes...	...	0
Approximate number of families to be housed under (i) and (ii.)	... ..	33
3. Approximate acreage of land to be acquired	...	12
4. Average number of houses per acre	... ..	4
5. Approximate localities in which land is to be acquired		§
6. Time within which it is proposed that the scheme (or if the scheme is to be carried out by instalments, each part of the scheme) is to be carried into effect:—		

The whole

31st July, 1922.

7. Particulars of any measure necessary, as part of the scheme for the preservation of existing erections of architectural, historic or artistic interest, or for the preservation of the natural amenities of the locality ... None.
8. Any other provisions (including provisions for joint action with any other Local Authority) ... .. None.  
The Council considers that the balance of 12 houses required at Bures Hamlet, to replace existing houses that should be closed, should be provided by the Melford R.D.C., as the occupants of these cottages work in that district.
9. Is it anticipated that the scheme may subsequently require to be amended? If so any relevant considerations should be stated.  
If it is found impossible to get the owners to repair the 33 cottages, acquisition will be considered, so that they may be made habitable by the Council. If this is found to be inadvisable in any instances, the Council will build an additional corresponding number over the 50 stated above.

§ Shewn for each parish in Column D., of Table VII.

|| Shewn for each parish in Column C., of Table VII.

TABLE VII.

## BELCHAMP RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Survey of Housing Needs, October 1919.

Parish.	Houses unfit and requiring to be replaced.	Additional Accommodation required.	Empty and can be repaired	Council's Scheme.	Houses defective but Repairable.
	A	B	C	D	E
Alphamstone ...	...	2	...	2	5
Belchamp Otten ...	1	4	3	2	6
„ St. Paul ...	5	3	6	2	17
„ Walter ...	1	7	4	4	25
Borley ...	4	...	...	2	5
Bulmer ...	1	3	...	4	15
Bures Hamlet ...	30	...	6	12	23
Foxearth ...	...	2	...	2	7
Gestingthorpe ...	4	2	4	2	27
Henny Great ...	...	4	2	2	12
„ Little ...	...	2	...	2	6
Lamarsh ...	...	4	2	2	10
Liston ...	...	2	...	2	...
Middleton ...	3	...	...	2	3
North Wood ...	...	...	...	...	...
Pentlow ...	1	2	1	2	12
Twinstead ...	6	1	3	4	13
Wickham St. Paul ...	2	2	2	2	9
Totals ...	58	40	33	50	195

The position is rather different here to what it is in most districts. It is the quality rather than the quantity of houses that necessitates action. There are 58 occupied houses requiring to be replaced, but on the other hand there are no less than 95 empty houses, of which 62 are classified as only fit for demolition, and 33 as repairable. (Page 29) See footnote. Unfortunately the houses that can be done up are not always in the places where the accommodation is required, so they cannot entirely take the place of a new scheme. It will be observed therefore that the Council hope to erect 50 new houses.

An architect was appointed in Oct. 1919, but no sites or plans were ready by the end of the year.

The Council are naturally very reluctant to spend large sums of money upon which they see no adequate return, at a time when the strictest economy is necessary, and to this is due in part the slow progress of the building scheme. I feel, however, that many of the Councillors are not in a position to appreciate how bad the housing conditions are in parts of the district. One must not forget that very few people have the same opportunity as the doctor, and perhaps the parson, of seeing under what conditions of dirt, unhealthiness, and discomfort many of their less favoured neighbours have to live, whether they like it or not;—and a rapidly increasing majority do not.

The continuance of these conditions as better houses become available elsewhere, will lead to the better type of the working classes leaving the district, and we shall only be left with the remainder. It is therefore in the interests of employers and the community at large, as well as the workers themselves, that a decent standard of housing is obtained.

The Housing question is a serious one, and requires bold action over a period of years. It is extremely difficult for a body of business men to look at the question from any but an economic point of view, and there is no possibility of obtaining an adequate return in rents upon the capital invested, at any rate until loan charges are paid off, although after then houses will surely be a handsome source of income. But why should the economic return be looked for *entirely in direct cash*, any more than it is in a sewerage scheme for instance, which brings in no income. Surely the health and happiness of the people are of economic value, not only indirectly but directly; as what is more expensive to the country as a whole than loss of productive and wage-earning power from ill-health. And anything that tends to reduce this is of very direct economic value. As Sir George Newman points out in his most able Memorandum, the sickness and disablement benefits under the Insurance Act for England only costs £4,000,000 a year, which represents considerably 15,000,000 weeks of sickness. The above figures do not include absence from work due to maternity benefit or sanatorium treatment or absences of less than four days, for which no benefit is paid. They are therefore under the mark; so the loss of wage-earning and productive power must be very many times the above sum (which is based upon 10/- a week sickness benefit for men and 7/6 for women, and 5/- per week for disablement), to say nothing of the labour and expense involved in the care, nourishment and treatment of these sick persons during the 15 million weeks of their incapacitation.



In reducing this enormous sum, better houses will take no inconsiderable share, so that the present expenditure on housing will not be so uneconomic a proposal as at first sight appears.

As the standard for housing throughout the country improves it will be necessary to replace a larger number of houses not up to present-day requirements, and the Government's housing programme, now that so much machinery has been established, should be a comprehensive one covering a considerable period of years. At the same time rents should be allowed to rise to a reasonable level, so as to make it possible for owners to carry out the requirements of the Housing Acts. Nothing is more distasteful to the Council and its officers than to have to keep pressing owners to spend money on which there is so little return. The house-owner alone of all classes of the community is not allowed an adequate return on his capital, by a Government which at the same time is increasing his liabilities. The 20 or 30 per cent. increases in rent allowed by the various Rent Restriction Acts are valueless on an initial rent of 1/- to 1/6 per week. With wages at their present level, a higher rent should be general; and then repairs and improvements could be insisted upon by the Council with greater equity.

OVERCROWDING. The figures given above on the Survey show that there is not much, and the two cases discovered have both been abated. (See Table IV.)

FITNESS OF HOUSES—action taken as regards defective houses, etc. Particulars are given of the number of various types in the Survey, from which it is seen that well over half have only two bedrooms. This means that there is only one bedroom available for the family of both sexes, which is a serious disadvantage from the moral as well as from the sanitary aspect.

The general standard is not very good. Damp courses are practically unknown, and many of the houses have brick floors laid directly on the earth, so that the floors and lower parts of the walls are frequently damp. Fortunately the cill of the old timber-framed lath and plaster cottages prevents the damp from rising up the wall, but usually there is no lining of lath and plaster over the inner face of the studs, so that not uncommonly the single layer of clay-daub plaster is so thin that the walls are cold and damp. The drippings from the eaves of the thatch soak into the ground and make matters worse. The ceilings are often very low and the bedrooms almost entirely in the roof, and frequently not ceiled over.

Other defects frequently found are:—windows defective and some not made to open, doors that fit badly, broken fire-grates and ovens, dilapidated wash-houses, defective cesspit privies, and damp and dirty unpaved yard surfaces near the dwelling houses; very few of the old cottages have a larder.



Owing to the war, it has been extremely difficult to get much done, and at one time the standard of dilapidations became very high and the country side cottages presented a very neglected appearance. Had a rapid building scheme at reasonable prices been possible, it would have been better to have let go altogether many of the older houses which have served their time and generation. But as it is now obvious that they will have to go on for a time longer, the owners must be allowed or caused to repair them. The great difficulty that is being experienced is the gross inequality between the cost of repairs and the rents that may be charged which has been referred to on the preceding page.

Inspections under the Housing Act of 1909, and the action taken with regard to unfit or defective houses found thereat, are shewn in Table VIII and IX.

From Table VIII. it will be seen that 1,035 cottages have been inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, out of the total of about 1,100. (The 1,072 inspections shown on Table IX. include 37 which have been inspected and recorded a second time). This shews a great deal of energy on the part of your Inspector, as I know of no other district where the inspection is in anything like such an up-to-date state. The last three columns of Table VIII show the approximate number of empty houses at the end of the year. They are an amendment of the figures† given in the Housing Survey, which had to be sent in too soon after the commencement of my duties for me to be able to form any personal opinion upon the classifications there (see pp. 22-23). After further investigation I think that still further amendment may be required. It will be noted, however, that the total empty had diminished by 12, a healthy sign.\*

Table IX. shews that 269 houses have been found unfit for habitation, and that much work has been done in making these habitable. But Table VII. shews in Column A. 27 occupied houses which are undoubtedly unfit, and another 31 "the vast majority of which are unfit" (see page 24), and in Column E. 195 other occupied houses which require repairs. There is therefore plenty of work still to be done.

At the moment it is more practical to concentrate our efforts on the repairable houses in Columns C. and E., in order to save the expense of any new houses, that can be avoided by getting old ones thoroughly done up.

\* By October 1920 there were only 62 unoccupied.

† Repairable 33 ; not repairable 62 ; total unfit 95.

TABLE VIII.—BELCHAMP RURAL DISTRICT.

Particulars of Houses and Inspections under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, etc., up to December 31st, 1919.

Name of Parish.	Census 1911 population.	Separate Occup- iers Census 1911.	Total under £8 rateable value	Houses Inspected.	Empty Houses fit for occupation	Empty Houses repairable.	Empty Houses not repairable.
Alphamstone ...	176	53	44	23	...	1	...
Belchamp Otten	198	52	39	20	1	2	3
„ St. Paul	482	140	128	35	8	1	2
„ Walter	391	96	89	47	3	15	...
Borley ...	176	37	34	40	...	1	...
Bulmer ...	661	161	154	159	1	2	1
Bures Hamlet ...	463	117	116	136	2	...	...
Foxearth ...	335	86	82	93	1	1	1
Gestingthorpe ...	488	130	122	153	...	4	3
Great Henny ...	183	48	50	65	...	2	4
Little Henny ...	51	13	11	15	2	...	1
Lamarsh ...	198	49	47	60	2	...	1
Liston ...	100	22	20	23	...	...	...
Middleton ...	133	35	31	38	...	...	...
Pentlow ...	224	63	58	68	2	3	2
North Wood ...	4	2	1	2	...	...	...
Twinstead ...	170	49	43	29	1	6	...
Wickham St. Pauls	243	74	67	29	...	...	4
	4676	1227	1136	1035	23	38	22

TABLE IX. BELCHAMP RURAL DISTRICT.

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	Total.
1.—No. of Dwelling Houses inspected under and for the purpose of section 17 of the 1909 Act -	341	382	87	93	38	34	29	21	47	1072
2.—No. of these Dwelling Houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation - - - -	36	61	60	26	53	9	9	7	8	269
3.—No. of these Dwelling Houses the defects of which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders - - - -	21	33	51	11	29	41	17	14	64	281
4.—No. of Representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders - - - -	0	11	14	9	19	0	0	0	1	54
5.—No. of Closing Orders made - - - -	10	1	14	0	9	0	0	0	0	34
6.—No. of Dwelling Houses which after the making of Closing Orders were put into fit state for human habitation - - - -	0	1	3	5	5	8	0	0	0	22
7.—No. of Demolition Orders made - - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.—No. of Houses demolished - - - -	9	9	1	5	2	2	4	2	4	38
9.—No. of New Houses built, cottages - - - -	0	4	9	3	2	0	0	0	1	19
10.—No. of New Houses built, total - - - -	0	4	10	3	2	0	0	0	1	20

The new Housing Act is helpful in some ways in getting work done; but as in Section 28 no provision is made for the raising of the capital sums required for repairing existing property, it is often very little use in country districts where the rateable value is so low that the money cannot be taken from current account, and the rents are so low that it will take so very long to recover the sum expended.

The chief difficulties met with are two in number:

(1). The great discrepancy between rents and the present cost of repairs.

(2). The financial difficulty with regard to Section 28 of the New Housing Act. These have both been referred to.

UNHEALTHY AREAS. There are none in the district.

BYELAWS, Etc. There are still no Building Byelaws in force.

## STATISTICS FOR 1919.

No orders have been issued or work done under Section 28, and no houses closed by owners after Closing Orders upon the plea of "reconstruction" being necessary. No complaints of unfitness have been received from Parish Councils or householders. The other details are given in Table IX., from which it will be seen that 34 Closing Orders have been made since 1910.

Of these 7 have been demolished voluntarily.

4 are empty, but not demolished.

22 have been made fit, and

1 is still occupied.

The continual decrease of the population is reflected in the higher number of houses demolished than of houses built. Staff engaged in Housing Work :—

F. J. BOSHIER,

BROCKLESBURY & MARCHMENT,

E. BERTRAM SMITH,

S. ALLPRESS,

Clerk.

Architects (part time)

Medical Officer of Health.

Surveyor; Inspector under  
Housing & Town Planning  
Act, 1909.



# Deaths by Cause and Ages at Death during the Year 1920.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.								
				Total.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards.
All Causes	Certified	...	...	348	89	25	11	22	16	41	54	85
	Uncertified	...	..	11	3			1		1	2	4
1	Enteric Fever	...	...	1						1		
2	Smallpox	...	...									
3	Measles	...	...	3	2	1						
4	Scarlet Fever	...	...	3				2	1			
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	2	1	1						
6	Diphtheria and Croup	...	..	14			2	12				
7	Influenza	...	...	6	2					1		3
8	Erysipelas	...	...	3						1	2	
9	Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	...	16					7	7	2	
10	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	..	6	3	2			1			
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	13	1	4	2	2	1	1	2	
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	..	19						5	6	8
13	Rheumatic Fever	...	...									
14	Meningitis	...	...	6	2	1	1			2		
15	Organic Heart Disease	...	..	21				1		3	6	11
16	Bronchitis	...	...	11	3	1					1	6
17	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	..	40	12	4	3	3	1	4	11	2
18	Other diseases of Respiratory organs	...	...	3			1				1	1
19	Diarrhœa & Enteritis.	...	...	10	5	3					1	1
20	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	1							1	
21	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	..									
21a	Alcoholism	...	...									
22	Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	9						1	2	6
23	Puerperal Fever	...	..	2					1	1		
24	Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	..	6	4					2		
25	Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Prematurity of Birth	...	...	50	46	3	1					
26	Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	...	...	8		2	1	2		1	1	1
27	Suicide	...	...	3							2	1
28	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	78	1	1			4	11	16	45
29	Diseases ill-defined or unknown	...	...	9	7	2						
TOTALS				343	89	25	11	22	16	41	54	85

